

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
May 26, 2010 MINUTES

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting May 26, 2010, 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Terry Benelli, Chair	Anna Cadillo	Mary Berumen	Police Chief, Frank Milstead
James May, Vice Chair	Stacey Dillon	Mischelle Durkovic	Assistant Police Chief,
Craig Cuillard	Rory Gilbert		John Meza
Hong Chartrand			
Denise Heap			
Everette Woods			

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Ms. Benelli welcomed the board and introduced Mischelle Durkovic, Neighborhood Services Management Assistant II, to the members. Ms. Durkovic was present to fill in during Jennifer Hedges' absence.

2. Approval of minutes from the April 28, 2010 board meeting.

Ms. Benelli suggested deleting the last sentence on the first page due to redundancy. A motion was made by Ms. Heap to approve the April 28, 2010 Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) minutes. Mr. Woods seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Items from Citizens Present.

No items from citizens present.

4. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on items presented by the City of Mesa Police Department.

- Status of hate crimes in the City of Mesa

Assistant Chief Meza informed the board that so far this year, no hate crimes have been reported. If there are criminal trends in bias or hate crimes, they are tracked through COMPSTAT. In 2009, the state reported 185 bias crimes. Assistant Chief Meza did report an increase in gang activity which is being addressed by specialized gang member teams.

Chief Milstead gave additional crime statistics and advised that the number one killer is traffic fatalities. There also is an increase in home invasions with 8 reported in May and a total of 17 invasions so far. The East Valley Fusion Center is a resource to help solve regional robbery trends by combining resources of several agencies throughout the valley. The good news is that overall crime is down 28 percent.

- Mesa Police Department's response to the hate crimes in the City of Mesa

Assistant Chief Meza explained that the Police Department is required by law to report hate crimes. The Report Management System used by officers has a box to check if a crime is suspected to be a hate crime. Officers undergo classes taught by Assistant Chief Meza on Leadership and Diversity. Assistant Chief Meza also explained that there is a Police Diversity Team that is devoted to both personnel and community issues.

- Mesa Police Department's response to Arizona Senate Bill 1070

Chief Milstead reported that earlier in the day Police Chiefs from several major cities met in

Washington D.C. to oppose the Arizona immigration law. According to Chief Milstead, Mesa does not have a radical policy change but will do what is required by the law. However, overall there should not be any sweeping changes. The City's policy was drafted and submitted as a model policy for the state and region. Chief Milstead stated that due to the bill it was disconcerting that people may not report crimes providing an opportunity for gangs to prey on the immigrant population.

Ms. Berumen asked how the board could help. Chief Milstead stated that the board may be able to assist with training. Assistant Chief Meza also stated that the board may be a place where people could come and talk. Ms. Benelli suggested that Human Relations Advisory Board be advertized. Ms. Berumen offered for the board to hold a forum if needed.

Ms. Berumen asked if there would be a representative from the Police Department in the absence of Denise Traves. Assistant Chief Meza confirmed there would be a representative from the Police Department.

5. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on items presented by the:

a. Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team

- Give an update on the final draft of the City Council Report summarizing the HRAB's review and recommendations regarding the adoption of a domestic partner registry in Mesa.

Mr. May wanted to know if it was too late to make changes to the report. Ms. Berumen advised that changes still could occur. After changes were noted by Ms. Berumen, Mr. May motioned for the acceptance of the City Council Report summarizing the HRAB's review and recommendations regarding the adoption of a domestic partner registry in Mesa. Mr. Woods seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- Give an update on research conducted and found concerning a non-discrimination ordinance.

Ms. Heap stated that research is continuing.

- Give an update on the progress made to recognize returning veterans to Mesa.

Ms. Chartrand will be making contact with the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Give an update on the strategy to identify best practices for community response to hate crimes and assess Mesa's response.

Mr. Cuillard wanted to know the process used by the board. Ms. Berumen explained that there were processes already established in the past which were used to address issues such as the Day Laborers. Ms. Benelli stated it had been awhile since utilized and that police representation would be needed.

b. Ad Hoc Marketing Strategies Project Team

- Give an update on the progress made on logo, brochure, and Web.

Ms. Berumen stated rewriting the brochure would be a summer project. Ms. Berumen will have a page included on the website.

- Give an update on the progress made on updating and adding to the emerging community list.

No report was given.

c. Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities

- Give an update on progress made to research transportation needs within the disabled community.

No report was given.

- Give an update on research found regarding Mesa's Meal on Wheels program.

No report was given.

6. Nominate and vote on the HRAB 2010/2011 Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Ms. Benelli suggested Mr. May for the position as the new Chair. Mr. Cuillard nominated Mr. May as Chair. Mr. Woods seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously. There will be a temporarily absence of a Vice Chair until filled by a new member. Ms. Benelli offered her assistance during the interim.

7. Diversity Officer's Report:

a. Hear an update on the Diversity Office and Neighborhood Outreach Office activities.

- Notice for the May 21st Regional Human Relations Board and Commission Meeting was not sent until May 20th. Therefore there was no representation from the HRAB. Ms. Berumen inquired with regional members if a Regional Meeting was still necessary in lieu of staff shortages. The consensus was that everyone was in a state of flux, and it was important to come together and see what is working. Gilbert and Chandler will be hosting the next meeting with the Gilbert Assistant City Manager overseeing the meeting. Mr. May suggested the email addresses of each board member be provided since that would ensure communication with the board.

8. Report on conferences and/or meeting attended.

Ms. Heap attended the Fair Housing and Disability Conference and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Police Forum.

9. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Ms. Heap would like to have an Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team meeting before the next board meeting in August.
- Ms. Berumen would like to focus on the Strategic Plan for the Board.
- Mr. May suggested revisiting Arizona Senate Bill 1070 at the HRAB August Retreat.
- Ms. Berumen recognized that Mr. Woods has served the maximum term as a board member. She also reported that Mr. Cuillard is moving to Gilbert and this will be his last board meeting. Ms. Berumen thanked Mr. Woods for five years of service and Mr. Cuillard for his past year of service.
- There are four open seats for the HRAB.
- Mr. Woods informed the board of the open house for the Alston House in October. The Alston House will be used by both Mesa Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee (MLK) and Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens (MAHC) as a neighborhood meeting facility and is located close to the Washington Center. Items still needed for the Alston House include a block fence, office furniture, window coverings and an alarm system. Ms. Benelli offered to send Mr. Woods the rotary list which may offer contacts for needed supplies.


10. Adjourn

Mr. May asked to adjourn the meeting in memory of Phoenix police officer Travis Murphy who was fatally shot in the line of duty on May 26th, 2010.

Ms. Benelli adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

**The next regular meeting is on August 25, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.
Lower Level, City Council Chambers.**

Submitted By:


Mary Berumen,
Diversity Office Director